

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicants originally submitted Claims 1-14 in the application. The Applicants have previously amended Claims 1-7 and 9-14, canceled Claim 8, and added Claims 15-17. In the present response, the Applicants have amended Claim 1 and cancelled Claims 10 and 17 without prejudice or disclaimer, and added new Claims 18-21. Support for claim amendments and new claims is found in, e.g., ¶¶ [0020], [0021], [0024], [0031], Equations 9 - 11 and the knowledge of one skilled in the speech recognition arts. Accordingly, Claims 1-7, 9, 11-16, and 18-21 are currently pending in the application.

I. Rejection of Claims 1, 6-7 and 9-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 6-7 and 9-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,253,181 to Junqua in view of "Quasi-Bayes Linear Regression or Sequential Learning of Hidden Markov Models" by Chien; Claim 17 as being unpatentable over Junqua in view of Chien as applied to Claim 1, in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,424,960 to Lee, et al.; Claims 2, 9 and 13-16 as being unpatentable over Junqua in view of Chien as applied to Claims 1 and 12, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,129,002 to Tsuboka; Claim 14 as being unpatentable over Junqua in view of Chien and Lee as applied to Claim 17, and further in view of Tsuboka; and Claims 3, 4, and 5 as being unpatentable over Junqua in view of Chien and Tsuboka as applied to Claim 15 and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,662,160 to Chien. The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Claim 1 as amended herein includes "a Hidden Markov Model (HMM) having a state" and the limitations "providing a probability density function of said state, said probability density

function being associated with a mixture of densities” and “determining a correction term based on a probability of being in said state with said mixture after observing said first speech signal, and by performing a summation over only said frames of said speech signal.” The references as applied by the Examiner do not teach or suggest these elements. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 is allowable over the references as applied. The remaining pending claims directly or indirectly depend from Claim 1, and are therefore also allowable. The Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

II. New Claims 18-21

The Applicants present new Claims 18-21 for examination. The Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are novel and nonobvious over the cited references as applied by the Examiner. The Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowance of these claims.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the Applicants now see all of the Claims currently pending in this application to be in condition for allowance and therefore earnestly solicit a Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-7, 9, 11-16, and 18-21.

The Applicants request the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney of record at (972) 480-8800 if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the present application. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, credits or overpayments to Deposit Account 20-0668.

Respectfully submitted,

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